



U. S. Representative Tom Allen

Biography



In 2004, the voters of Maine's First Congressional District re-elected Tom Allen to represent them in the 109th Congress. In January 2005, House Democratic leaders chose Tom for a coveted spot on the House Budget Committee. Tom is also the first Maine representative in over 20 years to serve on the Committee on Energy and Commerce. This influential committee has principal responsibility for House oversight of food and drug safety, public health, air quality and environmental health, telecommunications, consumer protection, the supply and delivery of energy, and interstate and foreign commerce. Tom serves on the Committee's subcommittees on Health, Energy & Air Quality, Environment & Hazardous Materials and Oversight & Investigations. Tom is also co-chair of the House Affordable Medicines Task Force and the Bipartisan House Oceans Caucus.

SkYROCKETING health care costs, especially for prescription drugs, have been a special focus for Tom since he first entered Congress. In March 2005, Tom introduced H.R. 1144, the Medicare Dual Eligible Prescription Drug Coverage Act, legislation to create a six-month transition period for so-called "dual eligibles," Medicaid recipients who qualify for the prescription drug benefit established under the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act.

In October 2003, Tom and South Carolina Representative John Spratt led the effort to amend the resolution authorizing the President to send U.S. forces to attack Iraq to affirm that the U.S. should work through the United Nations Security Council first, and unilaterally only as a last resort. The Allen-Spratt amendment was supported by 155 members of the House. On June 30, 2005, Tom introduced H.R. 3142, The Iraq Sovereignty Promotion Act to affirm that the U.S. plans no long-term military presence in Iraq and to reassure the Iraqi people that the U.S. will not seek permanent bases in their nation.

Tom has been a leader in the effort to thwart the Bush Administration's attempts to weaken the nation's landmark environmental statutes. He has been an especially outspoken critic of the proposed New Source Review rule that would allow aging power plants and other factories to expand without complying with the Clean Air Act regulations that apply to all other facilities. He has offered amendments in the Energy & Commerce Committee to overturn this rule as well as Administration initiatives to exempt the Department of Defense from environmental regulations. He led the effort, both in Committee and on the House floor, to remove provisions from H.R. 6, The Energy Policy Act to waive liability from lawsuits for manufacturers of Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), to weaken Clean Air Act ozone regulations and to limit the rights of state governments, Native American tribes and other interested parties to participate in hydropower licensing proceedings.

In the 109th Congress, Tom has used his position on the House Budget Committee to oppose efforts to cut funds for education, health care, small business, environmental and other programs important to the prosperity and quality of life of Maine families. He also continued to push for Congress to fund fully the federal share of unfunded mandates in areas such as education and homeland security. He introduced proposed amendments to appropriations bills to require Congress to meet its financial promises under both the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the No Child Left Behind Act. Extensive information about Tom's health care, education, environment and other initiatives, is available on his website: <http://tomallen.house.gov>

Born in Portland, Maine in 1945, Tom attended Portland's public schools and graduated from Bowdoin College in 1967. After earning a B.Phil in Politics as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, Tom worked for Senator Edmund S. Muskie and then attended Harvard Law School, graduating in 1974. While working in a Portland law firm for 20 years, Tom was active in civic affairs. He served on the City Council and as Mayor of Portland. In 1968, Tom married his high school classmate, Diana Bell. They have two daughters.

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